

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Study Measures Agricultural Management Issues

How are the changes in farm programs affecting agricultural productivity? What changes will consumers face? What land conservation practices are agricultural producers using? To gather reliable, objective information about U.S. agriculture, the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service (IASS) will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Study.

Information on chemical applications, production practices, and pest management practices are topics this study will measure during the fall of 2000. Fewer than 12,000 of the Nation's two million farm operators will be asked to participate in the study, so every response is critical. Some 300 producers in Idaho will be included.

The agricultural producers selected to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Study will be making an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. All study information will be merged and used by commodity analysts, producer organizations, and others to benefit Idaho farmers and ranchers.

- ' Study participants have an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- ' Respondents are helping in the research for improved production, marketing, and profitability of U.S. agricultural commodities.
- ' Agricultural production practices can be developed to improve productivity for farm operators and ensure a safer, cleaner working environment for producers, their families, and communities.

Idaho farm operators selected to participate in this year's study will soon be notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them personally to collect their reports at the operator's convenience. USDA will publish national information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2001.

The Agricultural Resource Management Study is one way that USDA and producers work together to provide the meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services that help keep U.S. agriculture and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

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